



## The Chair of the Council of SASSCAL Ministers Honourable Maria Do Rosário Bragança Sambo hails SASSCAL's Successes and envisions a bright future outlook as the organisation celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The SASSCAL 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was not just an event, but an untold story filled with celebratory mood, a look back into the past, remembering and revelling the journey of SASSCAL from its infancy to where it is today, an organisation vested with international status. It was a moment which brought together the outgoing and the present leadership of SASSCAL, the workmates, the stakeholders and the partners who have resoundingly contributed to what SASSCAL is

today. Above all the SASSCAL's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has been enshrined with a collection of successes in the organisation's mandate to lead the climate change and land management in Southern Africa.

The Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 12 April 2022. The commemorative event, was held in



Picture: (Front row) H.E German Ambassador to Namibia, Herbert Beck, SASSCAL Governing Board Vice-Chairperson, Prof. Gabriel Luis Miguel, SASSCAL Board Member for Namibia, Ms Sofia Kasheeta, and SASSCAL Executive Director, Dr Jane Olwoch, and NAMWATER CEO & former Alternate Board Member (Namibia) Mr Abraham Nehemia. Backrow: SASSCAL current and former employees and stakeholders during the official 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Windhoek

Windhoek - Namibia, preceded by the launch of the SASSCAL Graduate Study Programme in Integrated Water Resource Management (SGSP – IWRM) at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, and a tree planting and clean up awareness campaign across four SASSCAL member states last week.

In the past 10 years, SASSCAL, a joint initiative of five southern African countries namely Namibia, South

Africa, Zambia, Angola and Botswana and their main sponsor Germany, has implemented almost 90 research projects in collaboration with 80 partner institutions, trained about 200 young scientists, established a network of 156 weather stations and 54 biodiversity observatories, as well as an operational central data and service centre at the Regional Secretariat in Windhoek. Speaking at the event, the Minister of Higher Education,

Science, Technology and Innovation in Angola, Honourable Maria Do Rosário Bragança Sambo, who is also the Chair of the Council of SASSCAL Ministers, hailed SASSCAL's successes in the organisation's past 10

years of existence, accomplishment in climate change and land management projects. Hon Sambo packaged the organisation's performance status with a promising and brighter future ahead.



*SASSCAL Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo delivering her remarks during SASSCAL's 10<sup>th</sup>- anniversary official event*

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SASSCAL Council of Ministers Chairperson, Hon Sambo, was joined by the, the German Ambassador to Namibia and his officials, senior officials from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), SASSCAL Board Members, SASSCAL Executive Director, representatives of SASSCAL's western counterparts, WASCAL, partner institutions, former and current SASSCAL employees to celebrate the anniversary.

Hon. Sambo said that SASSCAL has all the reasons to celebrate and be proud of its achievements because, since its inception, the organisation has been committed to ensuring that there is no stagnation. In addition, she said that SASSCAL has been and continues to set a good example of a multilateral, cross-border, inter and transdisciplinary, north-south, and south-south cooperation organisation. "SASSCAL, which is a transnational organization and, despite being still very young in terms of tenure of years, it has been considered as one of the largest scientific

research networks in the SADC region, counting on the critical cooperation from Germany," said Hon Sambo.

She further added to say that steps towards realizing the transformation of SASSCAL into an international organization had to be done speedily given the regional and global challenges faced to mitigate climate change, within the framework of the SDG 13 of the 2030 agenda, with a particular focus on areas, namely Agriculture, Biodiversity, Climate, Forestry and Water.

His Excellency Herbert Beck, German Ambassador to Namibia delivered his remarks at the official 10<sup>th</sup>- anniversary celebrations

German Ambassador to Namibia, His Excellency Herbert Beck said the German Government through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has supported SASSCAL since its inception in 2012, both in institution building and in specific research projects. The support includes strengthening ties between German universities and research institutions and their counterparts in Southern Africa to effectively respond to global, multinational, and cross-cutting climate change challenges.



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Speakers took turns to congratulate SASSCAL's political, governance, management, and operational structures, which have contributed to tremendous growth in the institution. SASSCAL is governed by a Ministerial Council and a Governing Board. An Executive Director heads the institution, which has nodes in the different member states.

According to Board Chairperson, Ms Jane Chinkusu, "Ten years ago, SASSCAL took a step to ensure that the organisation goes into the future by providing solutions that will help the region mitigate the impact of climate change."

Dr. Karsten Hess from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) hailed the organization as a "unique product of Germany's long-term partnership with countries in Southern Africa." Germany has consistently been the main funding partner for SASSCAL. "We jointly invested much time and energy in preparing its establishment and went through a period of creating and a period of consolidating SASSCAL. What we achieved is a new and ambitious institution designed - and all set to play an important role for the people of Southern Africa to face the challenges posed by climate change as a region," said Dr Hess.



*Picture: SASSCAL Governing Board Vice-Chairperson Prof. Gabriel Luis Miguel, SASSCAL Board Member for Namibia, Ms Sofia Kasheeta, SASSCAL Executive Director, Dr Jane Olwoch, Namibian Government High-Level officials, SASSCAL programme coordinators and representatives of partner institutions.*

SASSCAL was set up with the awareness that all the countries of the region alike are affected, and none can confront these challenges alone.

The Executive Director, Dr Jane Olwoch expressed gratitude to the German Ministry of Research and Education, which has been SASSCAL's biggest funder emphasizing that the partnership between the two parties is the reason behind the organization's institutional development over the past 10 years. SASSCAL's success would not be possible and relevant without the commitment from Member states for its existence and funding its operations.

The ED also welcomed and thanked the new funders – African Union Commission and the Division of renewable energy and Green Hydrogen technologies of the BMBF. The latter is now responsible for providing the biggest financial support to SASSCAL.

Dr Olwoch also pointed out that one of the most important tenets of science diplomacy is to improve international relations and cooperation through science because not only is it universal, but it engages countries and institutions to enhance relationships in order to solve global challenges.

The work of the southern African science service centre focuses on five thematic areas of climate, water, forestry, agriculture, and biodiversity.

For more information on some of the strategic programmes and projects undertaken by SASSCAL in the past 10 years, click on the link below.

<https://www.sasscal.org/sasscal-to-celebrate-10-years-of-excellence-in-climate-change-research/>



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